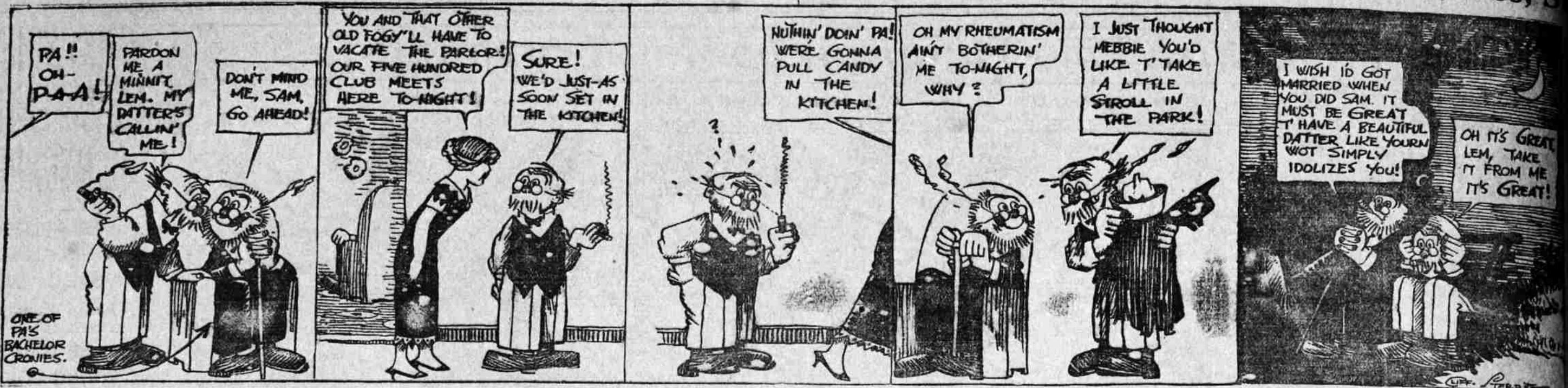


Polly and Her Pals



Weight Snarl May Keep Ritchie and Rivers Apart

Champion Said to Shy at Ringside Requirement; Anderson Willing to Make All Sorts of Concessions to Get at Willie.

By W. W. NAUGHTON.
SAN FRANCISCO, June 7.—Willie Ritchie's announcement that he will be ready to defend his lightweight laurels on July 4 has restored him to good standing with the western sports. Ritchie and his manager talked so vaguely as to future ring plans while the champion was touring the country that the opinion was formed that he would delay his return to the ring just as long as he could.

The shilly-shallying methods of Willie and his manager caused a deal of harsh criticism and a consequent loss of popularity, and it is just possible that Ritchie deemed it expedient to sit up and take notice of public opinion. Unless some stumbling block appears, Joe Rivers will be Ritchie's opponent on Independence day, and the contest will be handled by the Tuxedo club of San Francisco. The financial terms submitted by both lightweight have been accepted, and Promoter Graney is so sure of his ground that he has begun negotiations for the building of an arena.

Thinks Rivers Lucky.
Rivers claims to be Ritchie's "logical opponent," but there are any number of light fans who do not see the thing in that light. They simply think that "Mexican Joe" is lucky. It is felt that the championship bout would have been equally interesting if Tommy Murphy, Leach, Cross or "Bud" Anderson had been selected to face Ritchie. This means that the July 4th affair will not be looked upon as the final heat in the lightweight championship by any means. There are several boys fit to have a chance at the title and from the way public opinion asserts itself in these matters there is little fear of any worthy candidate being overlooked.

It may be that before these lines appear in print Billy Nolan will have declared himself in respect to the terms which will govern the July 4th contest. Right now a feeling exists that Ritchie's manager will set his face against ringside weight.

For quite a while there have been whisperings that Ritchie would not agree to 133 pounds ringside for anyone. Other rumors to the effect that he had an awful time making the

notch for Ad Wolgast have been received. If this is the case quite a number of smart fellows were hoodwinked, for Nolan invited several experts to Ritchie's quarters several days before the fight and showed them that Ritchie was within a pound or two of the notch.

Heroic Methods Employed.
Now it is said that poor Ritchie was subjected to heroic methods of reduction to pass muster on that particular day and that a halt in his work had to be called to subdue a tendency to fever and extreme nervous tension. At that, Ritchie passed muster on the scales successfully on the day of the fight. But here again Dame Rumor was busy. It was said that he was dried out as though baked in a lime kiln and that a subterfuge was resorted to to gain him forty minutes' respite before entering the ring. The story was that his fighting shoes could not be found and that it was necessary to delay the start until a pair could be procured from his residence, a few miles away. Meanwhile some strengthening beef tea and a moderate amount of cooling liquids found their way down Willie's parched throat.

Weight Question Up.
The prospect of a hitch in regard to the weight has given rise to arguments as to how far a champion can dictate in a matter of that kind. Some of the sports hold that a champion must defend his title under weight conditions exactly similar to what prevails when he acquired it. Others contend that it is for the champion to name the terms. Many who object to the latter view say that if every succeeding champion had a right to set a new weight limit upon the middleweight boundaries after a while. To this the reply is made that if Ritchie makes any change at all it would not be in actual poundage, but merely in the time of weighing in. This is classed as an evasion, it being pointed out that if the weighing hour is put back, ringside poundage must of necessity increase.

A hint has been thrown out that if Nolan attempts to fix this matter arbitrarily, Rivers will withdraw from the match. If anything like that hap-

Two Famous Boxers Who Are To Meet Tuesday at Vernon



pens, young Bud Anderson of Oregon will hop into the breach—that is, if Nolan will stand for him. Anderson, like all youngsters who are seeking recognition, is inclined to make concessions. He says he will allow Ritchie to weigh whatever he pleases and will moreover bet \$10,000 on the bout.

Dundee and Wolgast.
Ad Wolgast and Johnny Dundee are to box at Los Angeles Tuesday night. This match, it must be confessed, has attracted the least attention of all the bouts Ad has been a party to for a long time. It is admitted, of course, that when two such willing youngsters get together the fur is likely to fly, but on the face of it the match has a misfit appearance. It is argued that in order to justify lightweight Wolgast and featherweight Dundee being sent together there will have to be good grounds for supposing that Wolgast has gone back and that matches which are made on that basis are better left unmade.

VETERANS AND MORE RECENT STARS SIZED

A roster, in commenting on the length of service of a well-trained athlete, who takes good care of himself, points out that the following would make one grand round-up of veterans now in active service, if they could ever be herded together on one diamond: Crawford, Echeard, Seymour, Leach and Clarke (manager), outfielders; Chance, first base; Lajoie, second base; Wagner, shortstop; Collier, third base; Brennan and Sullivan, catchers; Mathewson, Plank, Hughes, Moore and Hess, pitchers.

Every one of these men, except the pitchers, has been in the big leagues for fifteen years or more. The hurlers are not exactly chickens, either, all having been in the big show for at least a dozen seasons. There were just enough of these old-timers left to go around and it was necessary to put Wallace on third base, though he has played shortstop for many years; but third base was his original position.

This collection of antiquies would not exactly resemble bush leagues, if pitted against the following, who have joined the big show since 1900: Cobb, Jackson, Speaker, Miller and Mares, outfielders; Chase, first base; Collins, second base; Tinker, shortstop; Baker, third base; Archer and Doolin, catchers; Walsh, Johnson, Wood, Rucker and Echeard, pitchers, with McGraw as manager.

"Germany" Schaefer Has Been Playing Fine Ball Lately

"GERMANY" SCHAEFER.



HERMAN ("Germany") SCHAEFER, the former star of the Detroit infield, is still good enough to hold down a big league job. The veteran comedian of the diamond is filling in as a utility infielder and coach on the fast playing Washington team. He has been playing pretty regularly of late and has been acquitting himself in a manner highly satisfactory to Manager Griffith. Schaefer is one of the most popular players on the circuit in the eyes of the fans.

Derby Star Brings Fortune.
LONDON, June 7.—The sum of \$150,000 was paid today by the government of Argentina for the horse Craganour, which was first past the winning post in the derby on Wednesday, but was disqualified for bumping.

George Stallings Has Worked Wonders With Lowly Braves

Big Chief, Having Sorry Aggregation to Begin On, Has Built Up Team That Will Have Something to Say About Pennant.

By W. J. MACBETH.
NEW YORK, June 7.—George Stallings of the Boston Braves has so far proved the most successful major league manager of the season. The race is quite young and the "Big Chief" may take a big spill before October. But the fact remains that in the first two months of the National league pennant fight he has shown more real managerial ability than any contemporary in either of the big leagues.

That is putting it very strongly. There are some good leaders taken into comparison. There is Connie Mack, John J. McGraw, Fred Clarke and Frank Chance—the quartette which for years has been recognized as perhaps the greatest of all time. Of lesser reputation and renown might be named Joe Birmingham, who has fitted out a pennant possibility of what was a flivver a year ago—the Cleveland Naps; Clark Griffith, the original "hard luck guy" of all the managers; "Red" Doan, whose Quakers have put fear into all National leagues' opposition, and "Bad Bill" Dahlen, who seems on the point of raising Brooklyn from the dust of the second division cellar for the first time in almost fifteen years.

Has Fighting Force.
Stallings may never earn the fame of any of the "Big Four," but on what has gone this season, he has shown more class than any named, because he has made a fighting outfit and a feared rival out of what has come to be considered a hopeless tailender without the least outlook for immediate improvement.

A man is known as much by the work he has done as by the company he keeps. Or, better, he is judged by the manner in which his work is done under the conveniences at his command. A skilled workman is not expected to work without tools, he is not even expected to do competent work with dull instruments. It may not be the work of an artist to keep his instruments in repair, but it stands to reason that one who does it should command a better wage and far more respect than one who cannot. The real artisan would naturally be the man who could fashion as well as maintain the efficiency of his tools when there could be no excess to the market.

No Help From Rivals.
This in a baseball way is just what George Stallings had to do when he fell heir to the sorry legacy of baseball history. Stallings has a lot of friends. Without exception they breathed a prayer for him when his name was first associated with the Boston Braves. He had little or nothing on which to begin. His absolute playing strength was represented by one man—Second Baseman Sweeney. Stallings appreciated the folly of expecting outside help. He had experienced on many occasions the lack of sentiment in organized baseball. Instead of trying to lend a helping hand, his rivals, without exception, endeavored to wear from Stallings the only ball player in his camp.

The outlook at the start of the season was a most dreary one for the "Big Chief." Sweeney and Devlin were practically the only experienced men on the club outside of a few questionable pitchers. Fortunately these were so placed at second and third base respectively that they had young Maranville between them. Maranville was naturally a phenom. He has been one of the sensations of the season. "Hal" Meyers, at first, is a very fast fellow. He is a good hitter, but his arm is very bad. He lacks experience. But Sweeney helped him along at first and he got away with his task well enough to round out an infield of more than passing worth. That is one of Stallings' great attributes. He has the faculty of making his men do the very best that is in them all of the time and that comes more in the end than in individual strength divided against itself.

Whaling Promising Catcher.
Stallings, who has developed a great number of first-rate catchers, has a most promising receiver in Whaling. He has several mighty competent pitchers, among them Perdus, Tyler and James. A couple more of the same type would give him a pitching staff the equal of most anything in his company. Of course, Stallings will have to replace Devlin and Titus before long, as both are veterans of many years. In Smith he has an able understudy for the great third sacker. Stallings has declared that by the time Devlin falls this youngster should

be as good as Arthur was in the day of his fame. That would be enough for any manager. Stallings, in a great many respects, resembles McGraw. He believes that battery strength and are two of the main requisites for a team. He is a firm believer in virtues of youth. Wherever he gathered unto himself a choice of young blood, which he injected as much of this young into the line-up as possible, he had just enough of the good and talent to keep the proper balance. Because of the youngsters in the Boston Braves cannot be expected greatly to benefit this first year. Any team of young will be found untidy at first. They may play like champions one day like "bushers" the next. When break they usually go to pieces. He has been proved more than once the Braves this season. On any number of occasions a rival has scored or more runs in an inning. But on many occasions the Braves done likewise, and many times come across when the score was overwhelmingly against them. That gameness in a team. Experience do a lot for it.

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